negotiations and articulating its position effectively. Further, it is also making bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral efforts, both with developed and developing country members, so as to ensure that interests of developing countries, including India are fully protected. India would make utmost efforts to ensure a balanced outcome at the end of the negotiations that would try to protect the interests of all WTO Members and also to ensure that the development-oriented focus of the Doha mandate is fully preserved in the final results of the negotiations.

Incentives to cement factories to be set up in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

499. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that offering incentives like excise exemptions etc. to cement factories to be set up in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal will be an environmental hazard in these areas assit involves extensive transportation by road from the lime deposits to the factories and from the manufacturing sites to marketing places in North India due to paucity of additional demands of cement in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, whether the Environmental angle has been cleared from the respective agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Cement being a mineral based industry, it is considered advantageous to set up the Cement Plants around the lime stones deposit areas and the cement produced is transported to various consumption centres. Details of State wise production and consumption of cement are annexed as statement (*see* below). In the State of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, lime stone reserves to the extent of 3976.45 million tonnes and 1259.95 million tonnes respectively are available (proved equivalent). Based on these reserves, 4.5 million tonnes cement production capacity has already been created in the State of Himachal Pradesh, prior to the notification of fiscal incentives. Against the above installed capacity, the actual

production in the year 2001-02 was 3.9 million tonnes in Himachal Pradesh while the local consumption was limited to 1.2 million tonnes. The remaining cement was sent to consumption centres outside the state for which transport subsidy was also paid and therefore local demand alone can not be criteria for promoting industries.

(b) Yes Sir.

Statement

(In Million tonnes)

Details of Production and Consumption of Cement

S. No.	Name of the States	Cement Prodn. 2002-03	Cement Consumption (April-December)
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
1.	Uttaranchal		0.76
2.	Haryana		2.62
3.	Punjab	2.15	3.98
4.	Rajasthan	12.72	4.46
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.95	1.1
6.	Chandigarh		0.18
7.	Delhi		2.26
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.9	0.59
Northern Region-Total		17.91	15.95
Eastern Region			
9.	Assam	0.11	0.61
10.	Meghalaya	0.08	0.42
11.	Bihar	0.42	2.42
12.	Jharkhand	2.7	1.3
13.	Orissa	1.81	2.45
14.	West Bengal	1.75	4.06
15	Chattisgharh	5.34	1.01
Eastern Region-Total		12.21	12.27
Southern Region			
16.	Andhra Pradesh	9.95	5.89

1	2	3	4
17.	Tamil Nadu	8.62	6.86
18.	Karnataka	5.87	5.14
19.	Kerala	0.31	3.89
20.	Pondicherry		0.18
21.	Andaman & Nicobar		0.08
22.	Goa, Daman & Diu		0.25
Southern Region-Total		24.75	22.29
Western Region			
23.	Gujarat	7.32	5.38
24.	Maharashtra	6.51	10.26
Western Region-Total		13.83	15.64
Central Region			
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1.65	9.33
26.	Madhya Pradesh	11.25	3.52
Central Region-Total		12.9	12.85
Grand Total		81.6	79.00

Lockout/Closure of Tea Gardens

500. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea gardens in the country being under lockout/closure during the last two years along with details, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of labourers lost their jobs due to closure and lockouts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many starvation deaths were reported from the settlements of tea garden workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain the causes of the prevailing situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) State-wise details of the tea gardens in the country under lockout/closure and the number of workers affected are as follows: